

Message Text

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45

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 EUR-12

ACDA-05 /070 W

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R 161030Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3074

INFO DIA

CINCUSNAVEUR

CONFIDENTIAL MOGADISCIO 1026

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET VESSELS AT MOGADISCIO

REF: CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON 131248Z JUL 75

1. THREE SOVIET VESSELS ARRIVED MOGADISCIO JULY 12 AND ARE STILL
IN PORT. WEATHER AND OBSERVATION ANGLE HAVE PREVENTED US FROM
MAKING EARLIER IDENTIFICATION BUT FOLLOWING ARE OUR CONCLUSIONS
TO DATE.

2. KANIN DDG APPEARS TO BE ONE OF THREE SHIPS BUT ATTEMPT HAS BEEN
MADE TO ALTER BOW MARKING. BOW CLEARLY CARRIES NUMBERS 561 AND
ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO ALTER LAST DIGIT TO B OR 56B. BUT IT IS
APPARANT FROM TELESCOPE READING THAT ORIGINAL NUMBER IS 561. IT
HAS HELICOPTER PAD ON STERN AND CARRIES ADMIRAL-TYPE LAUNCH.

3. SMALL VESSEL ACCOMPANYING DDG 561 APPEARS TO BE DESTROYER
ESCORT BUT WE UNSUCCESSFUL IN READING ITS IDENTITY. IT IS HOWEVER
SOVIET VESSEL.

4. LARGER VESSEL PRESENTS PUZZLE TO US. IT IS EXTREMELY LARGE,
APPEARS TO BE QUITE NEW, AND MOST CLOSELY RESEMBLES 3 LAMA CLASS
SUPPORT VESSEL IN JANES FIGHTING SHIPS (1971-72) EXCEPT THAT
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MIDSHIP CONFIGURATION IS LOWER THAN 3 LAMA CLASS; SUPERSTRUCTURE SET

WELL TO STERN. IT HAS BATTERY FIVE-INCH GUNS FORWARD. ON BOW WE READ CYRILLIC LETTERS FORMING TWO WORDS: BAANMHP KOAEYUKHA BUT THIS READING QUESTIONABLE Owing TO DISTANCE OF SHIP FROM OUR OBSERVATION SITE. WE CANNOT SEE SOVIET FLAG.

5. SOVIET SAILORS HAVE BEEN EVIDENT IN MOGADISCIO FOR SEVERAL DAYS. NO RPT NO ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE IN LOCAL MEDIA REGARDING FLOTILLA'S ARRIVAL OR ITS IDENTITY.

6. SOVIET CHARGE HAS BRUSHED ASIDE QUESTIONS ABOUT SOVIET SHIPS AND DENIED TO ONE DIPLOMAT THAT RUSSIAN ADMIRAL WAS ABOARD ANY OF VESSELS.

7. IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ABOUT RELATIONSHIP OF FLOTILLA'S APPEARANCE TO CONGRESSIONAL TOURS.

HAMRICK

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